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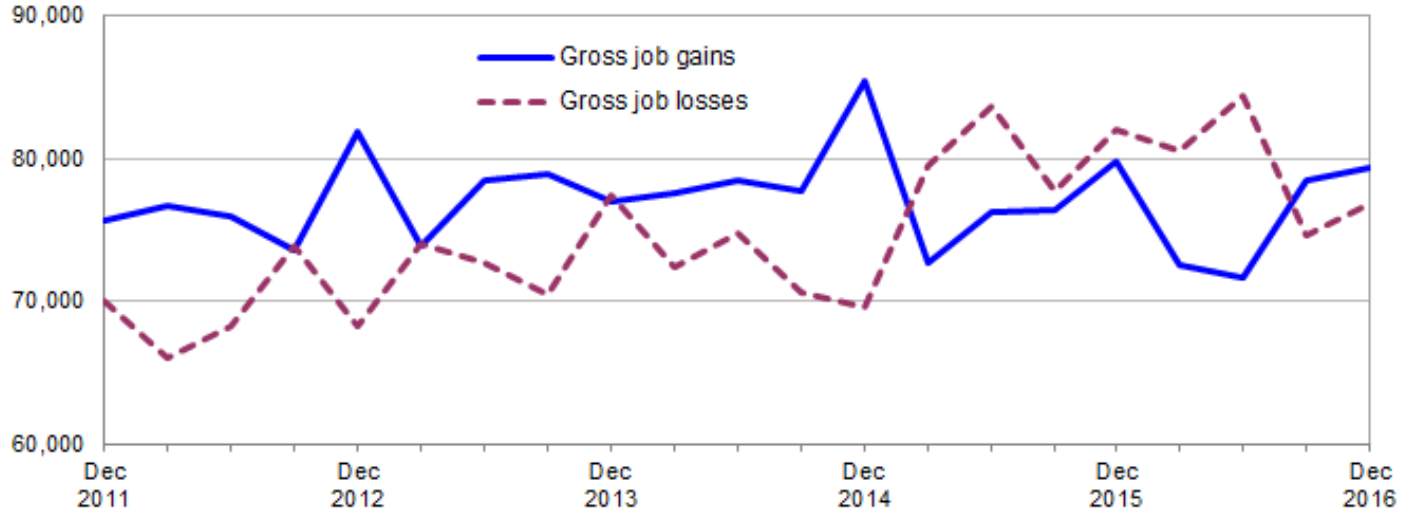
Business Employment Dynamics in Oklahoma – Fourth Quarter 2016

From September 2016 to December 2016, gross job gains in Oklahoma totaled 79,388, while gross job losses numbered 76,784, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. As a result, gross job gains exceeded gross losses by 2,604. (See chart 1.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that in the previous quarter, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses by 3,794.

The change in the number of jobs over time is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. Business Employment Dynamics (BED) statistics track these changes in employment at private business establishments from the third month of one quarter to the third month of the next. Gross job gains are the sum of increases in employment from expansions at existing establishments and the addition of new jobs at opening establishments. Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. The difference between the number of gross job gains and the number of gross job losses is the net change in employment. (See the Technical Note for more information.)

The number of gross job gains in Oklahoma rose by more than 900 during the fourth quarter of 2016 after climbing by nearly 6,800 in the previous quarter. (See chart 1.) Gross job losses rose by more than 2,100 in the three months ended in December 2016, after dropping by nearly 9,700 in the previous quarter.

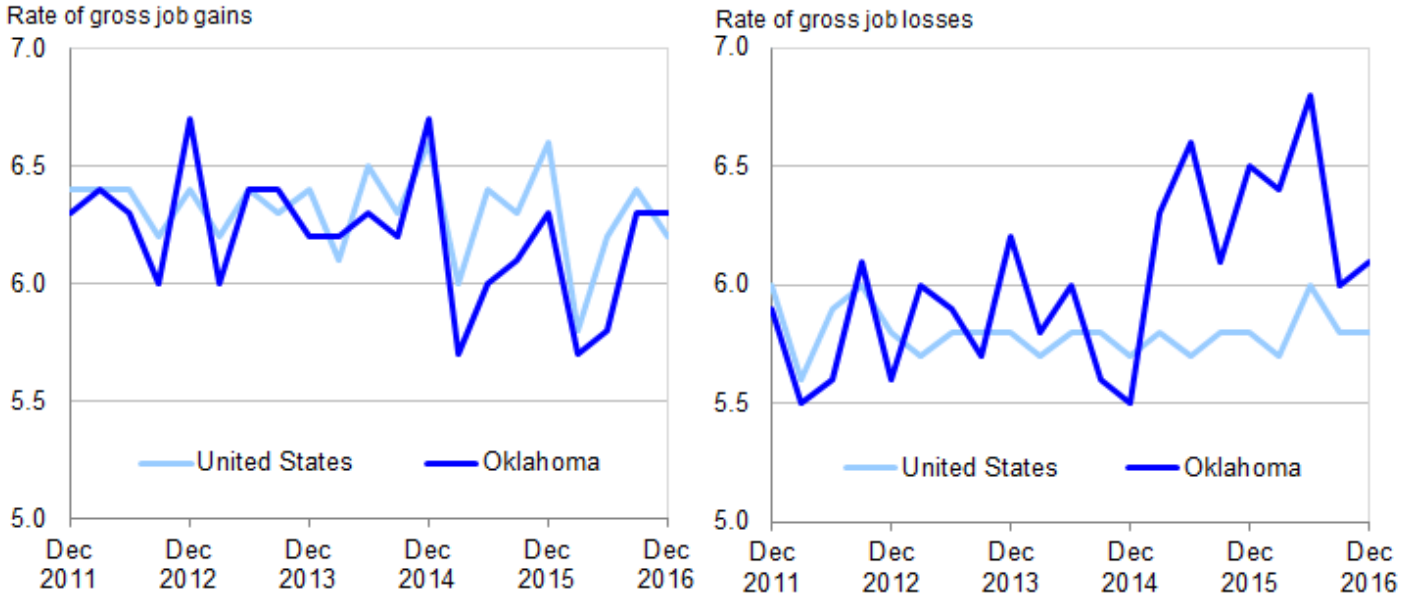
Chart 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses in Oklahoma, December 2011–December 2016 by quarter, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Gross job gains represented 6.3 percent of private sector employment in Oklahoma in the quarter ended December 2016; nationally gross job gains accounted for 6.2 percent of private sector employment. (See chart 2.) With few exceptions, the rate of gross job gains in Oklahoma has mirrored the national rate during the past five years. Oklahoma's rate of gross job losses as a percent of private sector employment was 6.1 percent compared to the national rate of 5.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016. Oklahoma's rate of gross job losses has exceeded the U.S. rate since March 2015.

Chart 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of employment, United States and Oklahoma, December 2011–December 2016, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

During the fourth quarter of 2016, gross job gains exceeded gross job losses in 6 of the 11 industry sectors in Oklahoma. For example, within transportation and warehousing, opening and expanding establishments added more than 4,400 jobs, while closing and contracting establishments lost more than 2,150 jobs. The resulting net gain of 2,259 jobs in the transportation and warehousing sector was the largest of any sector in Oklahoma in the fourth quarter of 2016. In leisure and hospitality, about 14,850 jobs were created in opening and expanding establishments and about 12,850 were lost in closing and contracting establishments, resulting in a net gain of 2,006, the second largest among the state's sectors. (See table 1.)

Five industry sectors in Oklahoma registered net job losses during the latest quarter. Construction saw a net loss of 1,477 jobs, as more than 8,350 jobs were lost at closing and contracting establishments, while only about 6,850 jobs were gained at opening and expanding establishments. Retail trade had a net loss of 1,465 jobs, as the gross job gains of more than 10,350 were offset by the gross job losses of nearly 11,850.

Additional statistics and other information

BED data for the states have been included in table 2 of this release. For more information on the Business Employment Dynamics data, visit the BED website at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

The Business Employment Dynamics release for First Quarter 2017 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 8, 2017.

Technical Note

The Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data are a product of a federal-state cooperative program known as Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), or the ES-202 program. The BED data are compiled from existing quarterly QCEW records. The QCEW reports are sent by the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) to BLS and form the basis of the Bureau's QCEW program and establishment universe sampling frame. These reports are also used to produce the QCEW data on total employment and wages. Other important Bureau uses of the QCEW reports are in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES program produces monthly estimates of employment, net changes, and earnings by detailed industry.

In the BED program, the QCEW records are linked across quarters to provide a longitudinal history for each establishment. The linkage process allows the tracking of net employment changes at the establishment level, which in turn allows the estimation of jobs gained at opening and expanding establishments and jobs lost at closing and contracting establishments.

The change in the number of jobs over time is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. BED statistics track these changes in employment at private business establishments from the third month of one quarter to the third month of the next. Gross job gains are the sum of increases in employment from expansions at existing establishments and the addition of new jobs at opening establishments. Gross job losses are the result of contractions in employment at existing establishments and the loss of jobs at closing establishments. The difference between the number of gross jobs gained and the number of gross jobs lost is the net change in employment.

Gross job gains and gross job losses are expressed as rates by dividing their levels by the average of employment in the current and previous quarters. The rates are calculated for the components of gross job gains and gross job losses and then summed to form their respective totals. These rates can be added and subtracted just as their levels can. For instance, the difference between the gross job gains rate and the gross job losses rate is the net growth rate.

The formal definitions of employment changes are as follows:

Openings. These are either establishments with positive third month employment for the first time in the current quarter, with no links to the prior quarter, or with positive third month employment in the current quarter following zero employment in the previous quarter.

Expansions. These are establishments with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net increase in employment over this period.

Closings. These are either establishments with positive third month employment in the previous quarter, with no employment or zero employment reported in the current quarter.

Contractions. These are establishments with positive employment in the third month in both the previous and current quarters, with a net decrease in employment over this period.

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Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Oklahoma, seasonally adjusted

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016
Total private [1]										
Gross job gains	79,854	72,627	71,683	78,448	79,388	6.3	5.7	5.8	6.3	6.3
At expanding establishments	64,117	58,279	57,231	61,958	62,882	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0
At opening establishments	15,737	14,348	14,452	16,490	16,506	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
Gross job losses	81,960	80,611	84,340	74,654	76,784	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.0	6.1
At contracting establishments	65,810	67,178	68,622	61,925	61,230	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.0	4.9
At closing establishments	16,150	13,433	15,718	12,729	15,554	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.2
Net employment change [2]	-2,106	-7,984	-12,657	3,794	2,604	-0.2	-0.7	-1.0	0.3	0.2
Construction										
Gross job gains	7,506	7,101	7,010	8,520	6,881	9.6	9.2	9.2	11.0	8.9
At expanding establishments	5,770	5,636	5,558	6,927	5,415	7.4	7.3	7.3	8.9	7.0
At opening establishments	1,736	1,465	1,452	1,593	1,466	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9
Gross job losses	7,595	7,840	7,704	6,382	8,358	9.7	10.1	10.0	8.3	10.8
At contracting establishments	6,101	6,145	5,835	5,152	6,813	7.8	7.9	7.6	6.7	8.8
At closing establishments	1,494	1,695	1,869	1,230	1,545	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.6	2.0
Net employment change [2]	-89	-739	-694	2,138	-1,477	-0.1	-0.9	-0.8	2.7	-1.9
Manufacturing										
Gross job gains	3,828	3,749	3,992	4,227	4,274	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.3
At expanding establishments	3,339	3,376	3,375	3,816	3,845	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0
At opening establishments	489	373	617	411	429	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
Gross job losses	6,471	5,955	6,795	5,329	4,453	4.9	4.5	5.3	4.1	3.5
At contracting establishments	5,690	5,369	6,186	4,655	3,745	4.3	4.1	4.8	3.6	2.9
At closing establishments	781	586	609	674	708	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6
Net employment change [2]	-2,643	-2,206	-2,803	-1,102	-179	-2.0	-1.6	-2.2	-0.8	-0.2
Wholesale trade										
Gross job gains	3,326	2,914	2,769	3,378	2,815	5.6	4.9	4.8	5.8	4.8
At expanding establishments	2,637	2,238	2,093	2,481	2,282	4.4	3.8	3.6	4.3	3.9
At opening establishments	689	676	676	897	533	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.5	0.9
Gross job losses	3,704	3,404	3,221	3,088	3,154	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.5
At contracting establishments	2,975	2,624	2,617	2,437	2,415	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2
At closing establishments	729	780	604	651	739	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.3
Net employment change [2]	-378	-490	-452	290	-339	-0.6	-0.9	-0.7	0.5	-0.7
Retail trade										
Gross job gains	11,179	12,021	10,587	10,502	10,373	6.1	6.5	5.7	5.7	5.7
At expanding establishments	9,679	10,680	8,926	8,815	9,113	5.3	5.8	4.8	4.8	5.0
At opening establishments	1,500	1,341	1,661	1,687	1,260	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7
Gross job losses	10,689	10,656	11,034	11,553	11,838	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.5
At contracting establishments	9,510	9,386	9,744	10,226	9,833	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.4
At closing establishments	1,179	1,270	1,290	1,327	2,005	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1
Net employment change [2]	490	1,365	-447	-1,051	-1,465	0.3	0.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8
Transportation and warehousing										
Gross job gains	5,643	2,074	2,145	3,018	4,423	11.0	4.1	4.3	6.0	8.5
At expanding establishments	5,070	1,672	1,789	2,594	4,144	9.9	3.3	3.6	5.2	8.0
At opening establishments	573	402	356	424	279	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5
Gross job losses	2,818	4,285	2,208	1,954	2,164	5.5	8.4	4.5	3.9	4.2
At contracting establishments	2,038	3,758	1,818	1,671	1,587	4.0	7.4	3.7	3.3	3.1
At closing establishments	780	527	390	283	577	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.6	1.1
Net employment change [2]	2,825	-2,211	-63	1,064	2,259	5.5	-4.3	-0.2	2.1	4.3
Information										
Gross job gains	1,093	916	899	771	1,061	5.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	5.1
At expanding establishments	877	570	795	618	922	4.2	2.7	3.7	2.9	4.4
At opening establishments	216	346	104	153	139	1.0	1.6	0.5	0.7	0.7
Gross job losses	902	1,100	1,021	1,060	987	4.3	5.2	4.8	5.1	4.8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Private sector gross job gains and losses by industry, Oklahoma, seasonally adjusted - Continued

Category	Gross job gains and job losses (3 months ended)					Gross job gains and job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016
At contracting establishments	647	910	711	857	829	3.1	4.3	3.3	4.1	4.0
At closing establishments	255	190	310	203	158	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.0	0.8
Net employment change (2)	191	-184	-122	-289	74	0.9	-0.9	-0.6	-1.5	0.3
Financial activities										
Gross job gains	3,824	3,202	3,440	3,962	4,097	5.0	4.2	4.5	5.2	5.4
At expanding establishments	2,918	2,582	2,619	3,019	3,056	3.8	3.4	3.4	4.0	4.0
At opening establishments	906	620	821	943	1,041	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.4
Gross job losses	3,728	3,746	4,097	3,548	3,754	4.9	4.8	5.4	4.7	4.8
At contracting establishments	2,913	3,019	2,979	2,793	2,801	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.6
At closing establishments	815	727	1,118	755	953	1.1	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.2
Net employment change (2)	96	-544	-657	414	343	0.1	-0.6	-0.9	0.5	0.6
Professional and business services										
Gross job gains	14,939	12,656	13,870	14,664	13,688	8.1	6.9	7.6	8.1	7.6
At expanding establishments	11,568	9,700	11,139	11,570	10,089	6.3	5.3	6.1	6.4	5.6
At opening establishments	3,371	2,956	2,731	3,094	3,599	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.0
Gross job losses	13,496	14,586	14,676	13,922	13,545	7.4	8.0	8.1	7.7	7.5
At contracting establishments	10,434	11,881	11,767	11,068	10,699	5.7	6.5	6.5	6.1	5.9
At closing establishments	3,062	2,705	2,909	2,854	2,846	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
Net employment change (2)	1,443	-1,930	-806	742	143	0.7	-1.1	-0.5	0.4	0.1
Education and health services										
Gross job gains	9,307	10,136	8,827	10,093	10,050	4.5	4.8	4.3	4.9	4.8
At expanding establishments	7,380	7,958	7,054	8,040	8,104	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.9	3.9
At opening establishments	1,927	2,178	1,773	2,053	1,946	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
Gross job losses	9,787	9,184	10,088	8,544	9,700	4.7	4.4	4.9	4.1	4.7
At contracting establishments	7,255	7,637	8,180	6,703	7,300	3.5	3.7	4.0	3.2	3.5
At closing establishments	2,532	1,547	1,908	1,841	2,400	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2
Net employment change (2)	-480	952	-1,261	1,549	350	-0.2	0.4	-0.6	0.8	0.1
Leisure and hospitality										
Gross job gains	14,136	12,820	12,596	13,418	14,837	8.7	7.8	7.7	8.2	8.9
At expanding establishments	10,884	10,083	9,544	9,318	10,324	6.7	6.1	5.8	5.7	6.2
At opening establishments	3,252	2,737	3,052	4,100	4,513	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.7
Gross job losses	13,078	12,239	14,578	12,921	12,831	8.0	7.4	8.9	7.9	7.8
At contracting establishments	10,279	10,114	11,532	11,244	10,757	6.3	6.1	7.0	6.9	6.5
At closing establishments	2,799	2,125	3,046	1,677	2,074	1.7	1.3	1.9	1.0	1.3
Net employment change (2)	1,058	581	-1,982	497	2,006	0.7	0.4	-1.2	0.3	1.1
Other services (3)										
Gross job gains	2,351	2,575	2,563	2,555	2,458	6.9	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.2
At expanding establishments	1,905	1,855	1,847	2,030	1,972	5.6	5.4	5.5	6.0	5.8
At opening establishments	446	720	716	525	486	1.3	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.4
Gross job losses	2,848	2,578	2,926	2,433	2,764	8.3	7.5	8.6	7.2	8.2
At contracting establishments	2,187	2,016	2,340	1,970	1,963	6.4	5.9	6.9	5.8	5.8
At closing establishments	661	562	586	463	801	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.4	2.4
Net employment change (2)	-497	-3	-363	122	-306	-1.4	0.0	-1.0	0.4	-1.0

Footnotes:
(1) Includes unclassified sector not shown separately.
(2) The net employment change is the difference between total gross job gains and total gross job losses. See the Technical Note for further information.
(3) Except public administration.

Table 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of total employment by state, seasonally adjusted

State	Gross job gains as a percent of employment (3 months ended)					Gross job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016
United States[1]	6.6	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.2	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.8
Alabama	6.2	5.8	5.8	6.2	5.8	5.3	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.7
Alaska	9.6	9.4	10.3	9.0	9.6	10.5	9.7	11.9	11.1	10.0
Arizona	6.9	6.0	6.1	7.1	6.0	5.4	5.7	6.1	5.2	5.5
Arkansas	6.3	5.4	5.4	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.2
California	7.6	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.1	6.3
Colorado	7.0	6.6	6.9	7.1	6.6	6.4	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.6
Connecticut	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.1
Delaware	7.3	6.5	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.2
District of Columbia	6.2	5.2	5.8	6.2	5.5	4.6	5.6	6.1	5.7	5.6
Florida	7.2	6.1	6.4	7.4	6.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.7	6.1
Georgia	6.9	6.1	7.0	6.7	6.5	5.7	5.6	6.6	5.9	5.8
Hawaii	5.8	4.9	5.4	5.8	5.2	4.4	4.9	6.0	5.0	5.1
Idaho	7.9	8.2	7.1	7.9	7.6	6.9	6.3	7.1	7.1	6.6
Illinois	6.4	5.3	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.7	5.7
Indiana	6.2	5.5	5.2	5.8	5.4	4.9	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.2
Iowa	6.0	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.3	6.1	5.8	5.9
Kansas	6.2	5.8	5.6	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.9	6.3	5.6	5.7
Kentucky	6.7	5.7	6.2	6.7	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.8	6.2	5.6
Louisiana	6.5	6.0	5.9	6.6	5.9	6.4	6.6	6.9	6.5	6.6
Maine	8.6	8.0	7.7	6.7	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.7	7.4	7.1
Maryland	6.8	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.6	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.0	6.3
Massachusetts	5.9	5.2	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.4
Michigan	6.1	5.4	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	4.9	5.3	5.6	5.4
Minnesota	6.1	5.4	5.9	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.2	5.6	5.6	5.8
Mississippi	7.1	5.7	5.7	6.3	6.3	5.4	6.1	6.5	5.6	5.7
Missouri	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	7.7	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	8.0
Montana	8.5	7.8	7.9	7.6	7.8	7.3	7.2	8.6	7.8	7.5
Nebraska	6.1	5.8	5.7	6.4	5.7	5.5	5.5	6.0	5.9	6.2
Nevada	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.7	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6
New Hampshire	6.7	6.0	6.5	6.4	6.3	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.3	5.9
New Jersey	6.7	5.9	6.5	6.3	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8
New Mexico	7.0	6.2	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.9	6.3	6.7	6.2	6.5
New York	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9
North Carolina	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.1	6.3	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.6
North Dakota	6.7	6.6	6.8	8.1	6.7	8.1	8.9	9.0	7.1	7.8
Ohio	6.0	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.6	5.6	5.3
Oklahoma	6.3	5.7	5.8	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.0	6.1
Oregon	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.2	5.8	6.5	6.4	6.2
Pennsylvania	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1
Rhode Island	6.6	5.8	6.2	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.0	5.8
South Carolina	7.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.6	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.4
South Dakota	6.7	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1
Tennessee	6.3	5.2	5.7	5.9	5.7	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.0
Texas	6.1	4.7	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4
Utah	7.2	7.3	6.7	7.4	6.7	6.0	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.3
Vermont	7.2	6.6	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.5	6.9	7.2	7.4	7.0
Virginia	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.0	6.2	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.1	5.9
Washington	6.8	7.1	7.2	6.7	7.2	6.2	5.6	5.8	6.4	6.7
West Virginia	6.6	5.9	5.8	6.6	6.4	6.3	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.2
Wisconsin	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.3
Wyoming	9.0	7.9	7.7	8.3	8.8	9.3	9.4	10.4	8.9	8.7
Puerto Rico	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.7	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Private sector gross job gains and losses as a percent of total employment by state, seasonally adjusted - Continued

State	Gross job gains as a percent of employment (3 months ended)					Gross job losses as a percent of employment (3 months ended)				
	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015	Mar. 2016	June 2016	Sept. 2016	Dec. 2016
Virgin Islands	7.3	5.7	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.8	6.5	6.1

Footnotes:
(1) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.